**Penguins are birds. The name is derived from Welsh terms ‘pen’, meaning head and ‘Gwyn’, meaning white. They mate for life.[](http://www.google.co.nz/imgres?imgurl=http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_vXnqFGFP7gc/Sekx-XDmvFI/AAAAAAAAAIk/Riwgfq7YaG0/s400/penguin-chick.jpg&imgrefurl=http://krpellin.blogspot.com/2009_04_01_archive.html&usg=__WSHIp_f5ZpsTG-ODjgdVal5VNPw=&h=400&w=323&sz=19&hl=en&start=5&zoom=1&tbnid=nsKV2vo3yOk4xM:&tbnh=124&tbnw=100&ei=9Kj2TaGjCpC3rAfa0vyYCA&prev=/search?q=penguins&hl=en&biw=1003&bih=555&gbv=2&tbm=isch&itbs=1) They are ancient species that appeared 40 million years ago in the Eocene.**

**Penguins don't fly, they swim. Penguins lay eggs. Penguin chicks have fluffy feathers. A group of penguins is called colonies or rookery. They usually move in huge groups. Penguins use their wings for swimming.**

**Penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere. Some penguins live in Antarctica, Coast of South America, South Africa, Galapagos, Southern Australia and New Zealand.**

**Penguins hunt for fish, squid or shrimp like krill in the oceans to fill their stomach. Most penguins can swim about 15 miles per hour or around that speed.**

**Penguins have insulating layers of air, skin, and blubber (fat). Penguins have tightly packed feathers that help them to keep warm. Penguins open their feather to feel the cold.**

**[](http://www.google.co.nz/imgres?imgurl=http://images.paraorkut.com/img/pics/images/m/march_of_the_penguins-12130.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.graphicshunt.com/search/1/penguins.htm&usg=__oL7-2mSOSm4AxIOnobP1d9e-2yQ=&h=357&w=299&sz=26&hl=en&start=2&zoom=1&tbnid=vL3Vg7OK5Pc_QM:&tbnh=121&tbnw=101&ei=oKf2Ta7FEoeJrAel6PSUCA&prev=/search?q=penguins&hl=en&biw=1003&bih=555&gbv=2&tbm=isch&itbs=1)There are at least 18 different species of penguins including the Emperor penguin. There may only be 100 million penguins in the world.**

**Penguins can be endangered by oil spills (leaks of oil from boats), water pollution (rubbish in the water), and the over harvesting the fish (too are much fishing). Let’s look after the penguins ☺**

**[](http://www.google.co.nz/imgres?imgurl=http://www.cosmosmagazine.com/files/imagecache/news/files/20080212_king_penguin.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.cosmosmagazine.com/news/1846/climate-could-wipe-out-king-penguins&usg=__FxDVb8JEl5esR3wWzT665c7fwkU=&h=361&w=300&sz=38&hl=en&start=2&zoom=1&tbnid=l3WURGWC_aSaFM:&tbnh=121&tbnw=101&ei=b6v2Tev7IYy2tgfoltTSCg&prev=/search?q=penguins&hl=en&biw=1003&bih=555&gbv=2&tbm=isch&chk=sbg&itbs=1)**

**By Jessica Kerr**

